Open Site

The Open Encyclopedia Project

Top: Computers: Internet: Chat (44)

- Instant Messaging (1)
- Internet Relay Chat (34)
- Web Forums (8)

See also:

Information about various ways to communicate via text messages on the the internet.

Internet_Relay_Chat
Information about Internet Relay Chat, IRC clients, Server Networks, and standards.

[more information]

Instant_Messaging
IM networks and clients.

[more information]

Web_Forums
Information about web forums and forum software.

[more information]

Overview

Chat on the Internet occurs in many different ways. There are three main variations of Internet Chat.

1. Chat Rooms / Internet Relay Chat
   People are allowed to join a room or channel, and messages are broadcast to all people listening in that specific room.
2. Instant Messaging
   People maintain lists of known associates, and send individual messages.
3. Web Forums
   Web forums are much like chat rooms and Internet Relay Chat, but the conversations do not occur in real time.

Category editor: smithd

edit

IRC Networks and Server Lists

By PhyberBX, Apatrix, and Jolo
original version at http://www.irchelp.org/irchelp/networks/, please do not mirror or distribute.

This site highlights just some of the over 800 independent IRC networks out there, each with its own channels and people. We do not seek to be comprehensive, that would be overwhelming for us to maintain and for you to read through. Instead, we hope to give people some suggestions to start, as well as to equip them with the knowledge of how to find other places on their own.

The IRC Prelude

New to IRC? Confused about clients, servers, and networks? See this short introduction to IRC. If you already know the name of the network and you're just looking for servers within that network, see our comprehensive list of servers such as for EFnet, Undernet, IRCnet, DALnet, and several dozen others. If you're having trouble connecting esp. to EFnet, see our IRC Connection Problems Guide.

IRC Networks

Browsing for a new network to explore? Want to compare the policies or characteristics of different networks? Look over our list of IRC networks, organized into the following 5 groups:

- Popular nets. At over 10,000 users each, these nets account for a majority of IRC users (about 2/3). Tend to be plagued by lag, splits, spam and general stupidity, but for most people, nets like these are 'the place to be' for finding people, illegal files, etc.
- General nets: This is the broadest category, selected from hundreds of general chat networks with hundreds to thousands of people. Compared to the popular nets above, nets like these can be just as fun but a lot less frustrating.
- Subject nets: Some groups of people have set up their own networks, dedicated to their cause, subject of interest or serving a particular social group. Many of these subjects are covered by channels on the popular nets, but these nets offer a calm, dedicated alternative.
- Local nets: These nets allow local server connections, especially useful in areas with bad network connectivity, offer an environment where the local language is predominant in the case of non-English speaking countries and, of course, will be a place for discussing topics of local interest.

Connection Problems?

Having trouble connecting to a specific network? The IRC Connection Problems Guide covers the most common problems, with emphasis on EFnet. The DALnet Refugee Guide is designed to answer FAQs from DALnet users moving to other networks. If you're just looking for the network's home page or server list, the following multi-network sites might help too.

Multi-network IRC server/channel lists

There are now 2 main sites, Netsplit.de and SearchIRC.com, that provide multi-network statistics (numbers of users, channels, and servers), server lists, and channel lists. You can compare different networks by those statistics, or search for channels by keyword across all networks.

These sites break down the traditional barriers between networks and let you find what you're looking for quickly and easily.

Server Maps

Depictions of the geographic locations of servers and how they are linked up to form various IRC networks.

- Graphical map of EFnet server links
- Text map of EFnet server links
- IRCnet server maps for Europe and N. America

Add your network

Application instructions for opers/admins to add their network to these lists. Updates for existing entries are also welcome.

Miscellaneous

Some other networks-related pages:

- DALnet Troubleshooting Guide - the latest news on DALnet's woes.
- DALnet Refugee Guide - moving from DALnet to another net? This short guide covers the key differences you'll need to know.
- Why don't you support registration for channel/nicks? - a detailed explanation of why we're not all DALnet.
- Is EFnet dying? - a little rant about the rumored demise of EFnet

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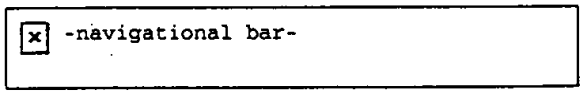
Note: Feel free to link to any of these pages, but no part of these documents may be mirrored or distributed in any form, either partly or in whole. Comments and critiques are based on our personal views and are not necessarily shared or condoned by the maintainers and owners of this site.

[networks home | popular nets | general nets | subject nets | local nets]



[go back | search | help | send email]

Servers and IRC Networks.

Home

Latest News
Download mIRC
How to Install
Translations
Message Board

Intro to IRC
IRC FAQ

Intro to mIRC
mIRC FAQ
Command List

How to Register

Mailing Lists
IRC Networks
Chat Links
More Info

To use mIRC you have to connect to an **IRC Network**. The IRC networks consist of groups of servers in close contact with eachother. Hundreds of such worldwide networks exist. The **servers** in a network maintain the contact between you and all other users. If you want to enjoy your IRC sessions it is important to find servers that work (fast) for you (ie. that are nearby to you) on networks with the athmosphere you like.
mIRC comes with a rather complete list of servers but you can always download an updated version of the servers.ini file.
Simply save the servers.ini file to the mIRC directory on your harddisk (c:\program files\mirc\ or similar) and enjoy this refresh!! The new IRC networks and servers will immediately be available to you from within mIRC.
Send all updates, remarks and questions regarding this list to servers@mirc.com

IRC Networks.

To give you an idea of the vast amount of IRC networks available we gathered together some short introductions to the most important IRC networks available. Of all of these large networks the most important servers are included in mIRC's distribution files. We'd like to point to the irc://Links provided in these lists; click on a "irc://Link" and mIRC will be launched by your browser and connect to the selected network!

irc://QuakeNet - QuakeNet is the place tobe for everybody who likes a little fragging, or more ;-) With its huge amount of users you'll surely find people available for a game of Quake, or other games.

QuakeNet website http://www.quakenet.org/
QuakeNet servers http://www.quakenet.org/servers/
QuakeNet statistics http://mrtg.quakenet.org/

irc://EFnet - Eris Free net was the largest IRC network for years and years, with over 100K online users on an average day. Because of its massive size EFnet was having lots of problems with lag, netsplits, op hacking and various other things but recent server improvements solved most of these problems.

EFnet website http://www.efnet.org/
EFnet Servers
http://www.irchelp.org/irchelp/networks/servers/efnet.html
EFnet Servers http://www.efnet.org/?module=servers
EFnet Map http://www.efnet.org/?module=map

irc://Undernet - Undernet is a good alternative to EFnet. It provides a

friendly and stable IRC network. The Undernet is growing in size very rapidly due to the continous improvements to the servers and the information and help provided to its users. Currently it holds about 100K users.

Undernet website http://www.undernet.org/
Undernet servers http://www.undernet.org/servers.php

irc://IRCnet - IRCnet is an IRC network that split of the large EFnet some years ago. At first it mainly consisted of European servers but overseas servers have joined to make a world-wide network with about 100K users.

IRCnet website http://www.ircnet.com/
More IRCnet servers http://www.ludd.luth.se/irc/servers.html
More IRCnet servers
http://www.irchelp.org/irchelp/networks/servers/ircnet.html

irc://DALnet - DALnet was created by The EFnet's #startrek users as a quiet place where they could run their channel without having to deal with takeovers and netsplits. But the people who run DALnet stress that its not just for trekkers anymore. With about 30K users DALnet is now one of the largest and most active IRC networks available. It is well organized and one of the five most famous IRC networks.

DALnet website http://www.dal.net/
DALnet servers http://www.dal.net/servers/index.html

irc://Newnet - NewNet once a small network of servers forced of EFnet, now a respectable and well maintained IRC network with 50+ servers linked. Its amount of users is still small but that might be just what you're looking for?

Newnet website http://www.newnet.net/

irc://Brasirc e **irc://Brasnet** são as maiores redes de IRC do Brasil. Elas são dedicadas aos usuários de IRC users de todo o Brasil e a todas as pessoas que falem português.

Brasirc website
BrasNet website http://www.brasnet.org/

irc://Galaxynet - Galaxynet firmly established itself as one of the more popular networks. Apart from IRCnet, it serves more countries with local servers than any other.

irc://IRC-Hispano - IRC-Hispano es la mayor red de IRC de habla hispana del mundo, con más de 750.000 usuarios diarios y llegando a picos que superan facilmente los 44.500 usuarios simultáneos. iRC-Hispano ofrece un amplio surtido de servicios para usuarios y empresas con o sin experiencia. Os invitamos a explorar esta web y ver todo lo que iRC-Hispano tiene que ofreceros.

IRC-Hispano website http://www.irc-hispano.org/

irc://StarLink - Starlink is dedicated to provide an IRC experience that is friendly, comfortable, and pleasant for all who visit.

irc://Austnet - Austnet is a very well organised net of Australian origine.

irc://Webnet - WebNet, formerly entirely run on Windows servers, developed into a very decent alternative to the major networks. The network still is a Showcase for the Conferenceroom server software.

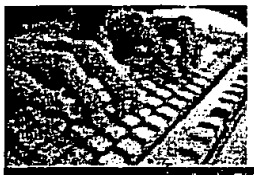
More Networks.

The list above is far from complete. There are lots and lots of IRC Networks and most of them have servers on all continents. Most networks have Web pages providing more information and up-to-date server lists. Have fun browsing around!

Netsplit provides a top 300+ of IRC networks.
See IRC Server statistics at http://rldf.eu.org/irc/mrtg/.

KidLink for kids http://www.kidlink.org/rti/irc/,
KidsWorld for kids http://www.kidsworld.org/,
ScoutLink for scouts http://www.scoutlink.org/,
QuakeNET for quakers http://www.quakenet.eu.org/,
Enter the Game for gamers http://www.enterthegame.com/,
Gamesnet for gamers http://www.gamesnet.net/.

More Networks http://www.irchelp.org/irchelp/networks/.



NewIRCusers.com presents

Chatting on the Net

Your information source for Internet Relay Chat, Webchat, and Instant Messenger C

Quick Click

IRC Introduction
IRC Commands
IRC Clients
IRC for Mac
IRC for AOL'ers
IRC FAQ

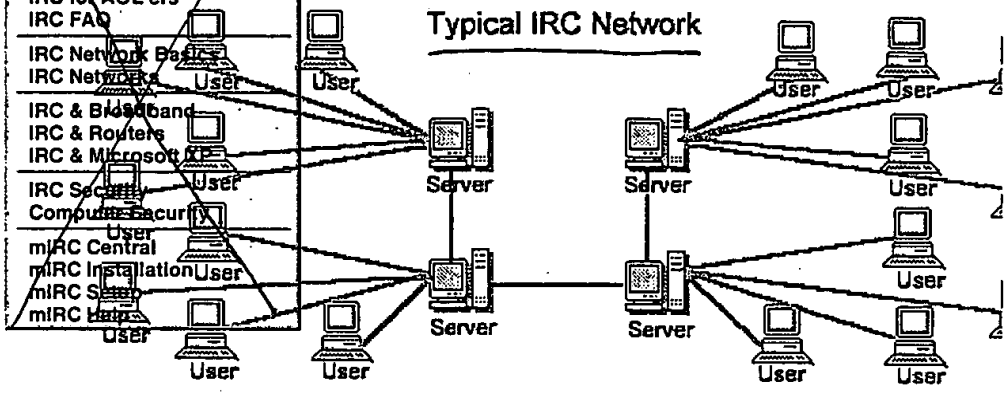
IRC Network Basics
IRC Networks

IRC & Broadband
IRC & Routers
IRC & Microsoft XP

IRC Security
Computer Security

mIRC Central
mIRC Installation
mIRC Scripts
mIRC Help

Al servers connected together. When you log onto an IRC network, you are of Since all the servers are connected to each other you are connected to even though they may not be connected to the same server as you. All servers on a network share and same information. Each server knows who is on the network, what channel that user is on, and which serv will. Below is a graphical depiction of a typical IRC network.



IRC Networks vary in size. Smaller ones may have as few as 2 servers and less than 100 users. Others, lil over 100 servers and more than 20,000 users!

There are many IRC networks. Each network is a separate entity unto itself. One network DOES NOT network. The networks DO NOT share common servers. You CANNOT talk to a user that is not on the sar If your friend is on the #newbies channel on EFnet, and you are on the #newbies channel on DALnet, you because he is on a DIFFERENT network. Channels with the same names on the different networks A channels, even though they have the same name. So, if you want to meet a friend on a particular channel, both on the same Network.

So, What's a Netsplit?

A netsplit is a disconnection of one server from another. They occur for various reasons, such as server the network link between servers. Due to the structure of the typical network, when one server becomes another server, that server, and everything connected to it, will become isolated from the other serv connected to them. Look at the typical network structure shown above. If one server delinks from anotl isolated network parts. What you actually end up with is 2 or more seperate networks. One side of the know what is happening on the other side.

So what happens when a netsplit occurs? How do you know and what do you see when it does? Let's : #newbies channel with several other users. Let's say half the users are on one server and the other hal server. A netsplit occurs and the two servers are no longer connected. What you will see is the users appearing to have quit and logged off the network. Instead of the normal quit message, you will see someth

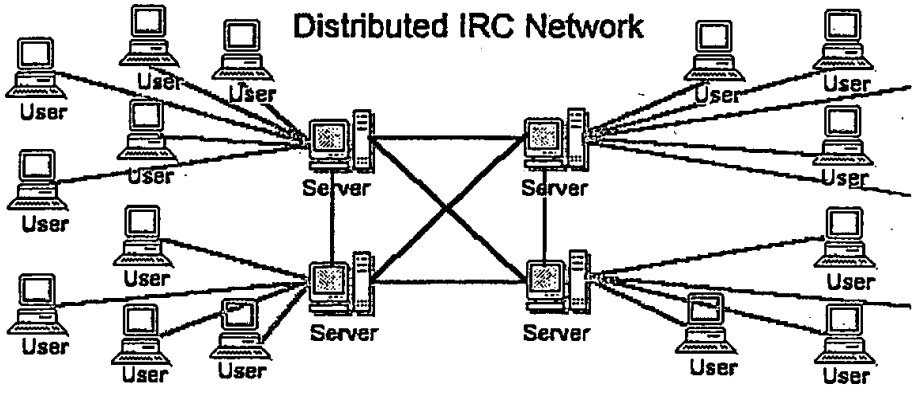
***** Buster has quit IRC (irc.eskimo.com newnet.iglou.com)**

The message in parentheses will show a couple of server names, which are the servers that have split. other server will see the same thing, except it will appear to THEM that YOU and all the other users on yo and logged off the network. In actuality, no one has quit IRC. It's just that the channel has become "sp which can no longer see each other. The channel continues to exist on both sides of the split, but they same channel. Just like they were on 2 different networks. When the 2 servers reconnect, the channel is re channel again. It will appear to the users on each side of the split as if the other users are joining the c fashion. There are a lot of other ramifications of netsplits associated with the rejoining of the two spl serverops, network resync, and possible nick collides, but you'll learn more about that stuff as your increases.

So, What Can I Do About Netsplits?

There is nothing you can personally do to prevent or fix a netsplit. It's a network problem and you just hav the servers rejoin. Of course, if you wanted to get back together with your friends on the other side of the quit the server you are on and log onto the server they are on. What you end up doing is joining the serve of the split. Unless it's a really long split time, it's usually best to just wait a few minutes until the servers re very long.

Existing IRC networks all use what is called a ***Linear or Series*** network structure. All the servers are cor one delinks, it splits the network into isolated parts. A potential method of dealing with netsplits is to str differently. The proposed network structure is called a ***Meshed or Distributed*** network structure. In th would have links to several other servers. If the link to one server were to be interrupted, it would still be al with that server through another server. The Internet itself is a Distributed Network. If one part of the Wor down, an alternate link is there to maintain contact with the rest of the Net. Here is a graphic depicti network.



As you can see, all the servers are interconnected in a meshed fashion. Servers are interlinked in such a even two links are broken to a server, there is another link back to that server through another server. Li server is replaced by another link through an alternate path. The Distrubuted network is not perfect. If server go down, a netsplit will still occur. However, the entire network will not be affected. Why arn't IRC r way now? I don't really know. Possibly the expense... after all, IRC is a voluntary thing. Server administra and they dump a LOT of their own money and time into building, running and maintaining their servers.

Network Services

What Are They and What Can They Do for You?

Network Services are one of the best innovations on IRC. They usually consist of two basic servic Nickserv. Many networks also run Memoserv in conjunction with Nickserv. The services vary in form, in complexity from network to network, but their function is still the same. They are run by the various Netwc servers, and usually run unobtrusively in the background. You don't have to use the services, but they cer safer and relatively hassle free. Dalnet was the first major network to run full blown services. Undernet c and EFnet doesn't run any services. Most of the smaller IRC Networks have some form of Network ser them very attractive alternatives to the major IRC Networks. **NOTE: When you register a channel or nic only on that specific network, NOT on any other network.**

Chanserv allows a user to Register a channel on IRC. Chanserv has virtually eliminated channel take channel is protected so that no one can takeover the channel. The channel owner (the person whc Chanserv) can specify who gets ops by designating an ops list, set channel topic, modes, and ban list things. All this will be maintained and enforced by Chanserv unless the channel owner changes them **networks, the registration will expire if the channel is not used for some extended time period rang days.**

Nickserv allows a user to Register their IRC nickname. Once registered, no one else can use the nick. Tl by logon address and is password protected. If someone logs on with your nick while you are not on lin their address, and if it does not match your stored hostmask (logon address), it warns the user tha registered nick and that they must change to another nick or be "killed" by Services. On Networks registered nick can send and receive memos to other registered users (sort of like IRC email). NOTE: O **the registration will expire if the nick is not used for some extended time period ranging from 14 to**

To check for the presence of Chanserv after joining a Network, type in **/msg Chanserv help**. To check in **/msg Nickserv help**. This will work on most IRC Networks with Services. Detailed information will be Network server. Follow the instructions for further information. For more info on available Services on s

Networks, **Click Here.**